

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140628

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: BTRA, UR, US

SUBJECT: TRAVEL CONTROLS: US-USSR MARINE RESOURCES COMPANY

REF: STATE 121274

1. ON MAY 25, DEPARTMENT DENIED REQUEST THAT MARINE RESOURCES COMPANY SOVIET REP LATYSHEV AND WIFE TRAVEL TO MOUNT BAKER NATIONAL PARK (WASHINGTON) ON MAY 28 FOR RECREATION. MARINE RESOURCES COMPANY WAS ADVISED THAT DEPARTMENT'S ACTION WAS IN RESPONSE TO UNSATISFACTORY TRAVEL SITUATION OF MICHAEL STEVENS' IN NAKHODKA.

2. EARLIER THE SAME DAY, EUR/SOV (EDGAR) MET WITH COMPANY REP WALTER PERERYA AND DETAILED SITUATION DESCRIBED IN AIRGRAM 103 OF APRIL 11. PERERYA SAID HE WOULD RAISE
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STEVENS' SITUATION WITH SOVIETS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD REMAIN FLEXIBLE WITH HANDLING OF LATYSHEV'S TRAVEL REQUESTS EVEN THOUGH HE ADMITTED HIS OWN EXPERIENCE CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS OFTEN HAVE TO BE PRESSURED TO GIVE BUSINESS COUNTERPARTS A FAIR SHAKE.

3. PERERYA SAID MARINE RESOURCES ACTIVITIES ARE EXPANDING

AND COMPANY IS PREPARING FOR THIS SUMMER'S JOINT OPERATIONS.

AS A RESULT, LATYSHEV IS NEEDED IN THE SEATTLE OFFICE ON A DAILY BASIS "TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN FORMULATION OF (ON-THE-SPOT) COMPANY DECISIONS". FOR THIS REASON COMPANY WOULD LIKE LATYSHEV TO RESIDE IN SEATTLE FOR SIX MONTHS "ON TEMPORARY BASIS" BEGINNING IN JUNE. EDGAR SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER REQUEST AND GET BACK TO PERERYA.

4. ONCE US-USSR MARINE RESOURCES OBTAINS FISHERIES PERMIT FOR JOINT VENTURE (EXPECTED IMMINENTLY), DEPARTMENT BELIEVES LATYSHEV WILL, IN FACT, NEED TO BE IN SEATTLE ON A DAILY BASIS IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF JOINT FISHING VENTURE DURING SUMMER AND FALL. WE PLAN TO INSIST, HOWEVER THAT SOVIET PROVIDE LETTER TO EMBASSY MOSCOW WITH ASSURANCES THAT STEVENS WILL HAVE ROAD ACCESS TO Khabarovsk.

5. JIM TALBOT OF MARINE RESOURCES TOLD US JUNE 2 THAT STEVENS CAN NOW DRIVE HIS OWN CAR FREELY AROUND Khabarovsk, TO A RESTAURANT IN THE SUBURBS AND TO A NEARBY RECREATIONAL AREA. CAN EMBASSY CONFIRM THIS WITH STEVENS, SO THAT WE CAN TREAT LATYSHEV ACCORDINGLY?

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PARA 4 AND ANSWER TO PARA 5 BY COB ON JUNE 6. CHRISTOPHER
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